Amendments to the Specification:

The paragraph starting at page 1, line 5, is amended and now reads as follows:

--   ~~German patent publication 100 16 649~~ United States Patent 6,778,883 discloses a method for controlling the drive unit of a vehicle. At least one output quantity of the drive unit is adjusted in dependence upon desired value input quantities. To make an adjustment, one of the desired value input quantities is applied which is selected from the received desired value input quantities. In addition to the desired value input quantities, characteristic quantities are received which describe the type of adjustment of the desired value input quantities. To control the drive unit, these characteristic quantities are selected independently of the desired value inputs. The characteristic quantities include dynamic requests and priorities. --

The paragraph starting at page 14, line 5, is amended and now reads as follows:

--   In the flowchart of FIG. 2, the module A is run through twice but with a different parameter for the lower limit of the particular torque request. The sequence of the call-up of the individual modules is dependent upon the priority of the individual torque requests. If the sequence of the priorities of the individual torque requests changes, then the sequence of the

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modules changes which are to be processed according to the
flowchart of FIG. 2. Furthermore, fewer or more torque requests
can be processed in the manner described. The flowchart of
FIG. 2 is then shortened by the ~~modules~~ modules, which are not to
be ~~processed~~ processed, or is supplemented by additional modules
to be taken up and processed. The sequence of the processing of
the modules is always coupled to the sequence of the priorities
of the individual torque ~~requests~~ requests, which are received in
the engine control 10, in this example, starting with the lowest
priority with increasing sequence of priority. If the nature of
a torque request changes, then, in the sequence plan or
flowchart, the corresponding module, which is to be processed, is
exchanged, for example, when a torque request limiting downwardly
is to be changed into a torque request limiting upwardly. If, in
contrast, the sign changes in a torque request with additive
contribution, then the same module C can be used with the
condition that the sign is also transferred as a parameter. In
this way, the method of the invention can be built up modularly
in a simple manner. Here, attention must be paid to the
situation that the individual torque requests are processed in
the sequence of their priorities in order to form the desired
torque to be realized via the at least one output quantity of the
drive unit. --

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